

To: StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: Gray, David
Sent: Sat 8/15/2015 12:09:57 PM
Subject: CLOSED Reuters: opening of private water wells in New Mexico
[150813PR-OOTSGoldKingMineSpill7.pdf](#)
[150814PR-OOTSGoldKingMineSpill8.pdf](#)
[150814PR-OOTSGoldKingMineSpill8-Precautions.pdf](#)

CLOSED

EPA Statement on New Mexico Reopening Private Domestic Water Well Use

Today, New Mexico announced its determination that private domestic water well use along the Animas River should resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA.

Reopening private domestic water well use is a state and local decision and we believe they have taken appropriate steps in arriving at this this decision. EPA sampling results from the river collected last week similarly show that water quality conditions are returning toward pre-event conditions.

We know the state has gone through a deliberative process in making this decision. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions.

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 7:54 PM

To: StClair, Christie; Gray, David; Press
Subject: RE: CLOSED opening of private water wells in New Mexico

Can you send me the response that went out? We are keeping track to use in future inquiries.

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Christie StClair [<mailto:StClair.Christie@epamail.epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 9:53 PM
To: Gray, David; Press
Subject: RE: CLOSED opening of private water wells in New Mexico

Awesome. Thanks!

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Gray, David

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 9:53 PM

To: StClair, Christie; Press

Subject: CLOSED opening of private water wells in New Mexico

Closed

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 8:33 PM, StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov> wrote:

Ha! The Area Command just told me to check with you. Think your team can knock this out tonight?

Thanks,

Christie

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

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From: Christie StClair [<mailto:StClair.Christie@epamail.epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 9:27 PM

To: steve.gorman@thomsonreuters.com

Cc: Gray, David; Press

Subject: Reuters query re: Reopening of private water wells in New Mexico

Hi Steve,

My colleague Robert Daguillard forwarded me your email. We can help you with this through the Joint Information Center – for all requests you have about the spill, just email press@epa.gov.

I'm working on this now.

Thanks,

Christie

From: <steve.gorman@thomsonreuters.com>
Date: August 14, 2015 at 6:34:27 PM EDT
To: <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>, <gray.david@epa.gov>
Cc: <GeneralNews.West@thomsonreuters.com>
Subject: RE: Reuters query re: Reopening of private water wells in New Mexico

Hi Robert,

Thanks for offering to help. I'm cc'ing your Region 6 colleague, David Gray, also. So my question pertains to a statement made during today's telephone media call that authorities were reopening private water wells to domestic use along the river in New Mexico, today. But it wasn't clear which entity or entities were lifting those restrictions; whether it was being done effective immediately; whether it pertains to wells only along the Animas River or along the Animas and the San Juan rivers; and approximately how many wells or homes were impacted.

I would appreciate whatever additional light could be shed on any or all of these questions as soon as possible, as I'm on deadline to update the story we published earlier about reopening of the Animas River in La Plata County, Colo., to recreational use.

Also, what is the status of the reopening of irrigation canals fed by the Animas River to agriculture? This was mentioned on the call as well, but not well detailed.

Thanks for your assistance.

Steve Gorman, 213-955-6761

Reuters, Los Angeles

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